



# IN THE ABSTRACT

*A quarterly newsletter from the Kentucky Cancer Registry*

Large Hospital Edition

January 2002

## QA UPDATE:

Letters will be mailed out in February regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year 2000 re-abstracting audit. The second half of the year 2000 cases will be selected for random re-abstracting audit beginning in April 2002. You will be contacted if your facility is randomly selected. We are making some changes in our QA processes, and your facility may not be chosen every year, especially since SEER also performs re-abstracting audits.

The Kentucky Cancer Registry Regional Coordinators will be auditing the following data items for the year 2000 cases: Lymph nodes examined, lymph nodes positive and lymph nodes removed at surgery. Thank you for your assistance in this audit. ♦

## KCR'S 2002 Annual Fall Workshop Plans

Mark your calendars for the next KCR Fall Workshop! September 5 & 6 has been designated as the 2002 workshop dates. Hilton Suites in Lexington Green will once again host the annual meeting, and room rates will be \$89 for a single or double room. More information will follow in future newsletters. ♦

## NCRA 2002 Annual Conference

"Data Driven, Knowledge Bound, Destiny: The Cure" is the headline for the upcoming annual meeting for cancer registrars, scheduled for May 22-24, 2002 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville TN. For additional information and a powerpoint presentation, visit [www.ncra-usa.org](http://www.ncra-usa.org) on the internet. The NCRA Executive Office is located at 1310 Braddock Place, Suite 102, Alexandria VA 22314. Email may be sent as follows: [info@ncra-usa.org](mailto:info@ncra-usa.org). Should you need to reach NCRA by phone or fax, applicable numbers are: 703.299.6640 (phone); 703.299.6620 (fax). ♦

## KCR TRAINING

The next Operators' Training Class has been scheduled for Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at KCR headquarters (2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite A230, Lex KY) from **8:30am through 4:30pm**. Interested parties may call Reita Pardee at 859.219.0773 ext 233. ♦

## CEU's for 2001 Workshop

NCRA has granted approval for 9 hours credit for registrars who attended the KCR Fall 2001 Workshop. In order to claim credit, reference this approval number: **2002-002**. ♦

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# PEOPLE NEWS



## *Welcome to New Hires:*

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| ★ Regina Higgins     | Jennie Stuart Medical Center, Hopkinsville |
| ★ Dana Murphy        | Columbia Greenview, Bowling Green          |
| ★ Rachel Tanner      | Owensboro/Mercy Health System, Owensboro   |
| ★ Sam Underwood, CTR | Taylor County Hospital, Campbells ville    |

## *Resignations:*

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| ★ Barbara Milam      | Columbia Greenview, Bowling Green             |
| ★ Sam Underwood, CTR | University of Louisville Hospital, Louisville |

# Congratulations!

## *New PhD:*

- |                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| ★ Thomas Tucker, PhD | Director, Kentucky Cancer Registry |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|

## *New CTRs:*

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| ★ Miranda J. Boils, CTR | Hardin Memorial Hospital, Elizabethtown    |
| ★ Kim Bradley, CTR      | Methodist Hospital, Henderson              |
| ★ Betty Copeland, CTR   | Western Baptist Hospital, Paducah          |
| ★ Jennifer Halsey, CTR  | KCR Non-Hospital Facility Abstractor       |
| ★ Loretta Parke, CTR    | University of Kentucky Hospital, Lexington |

## **GOLDEN BUG AWARD**

Kudos to fellow registrar Larry Sutton, our newest golden bug award winner! Larry discovered a city/county/zip code bug in the CPDMS software. His many years of experience as a cancer registrar at multiple Kentucky hospitals no doubt helped Larry win this coveted award. ❖



January 2002

**“Get Your ‘CTR’ Right Here...”**



Application Deadlines

February 1, 2002

August 8, 2002

Exam Dates

March 16, 2002

September 14, 2002

Cost to NCRA members: \$175; cost to others: \$250

Certification is administered by the National Board for Certification of Registrars, or NBCR. To obtain complete rules and an application for the exam, go to [www.nbcr.org/ctr.html](http://www.nbcr.org/ctr.html), or contact NBCR at the following address/phone number:

NBCR Executive Office

PO Box 15945-302

Lexena KS 66285-5945

Phone: 913.599.4994

Fax: 913.599.5340

Email: [nbcr-info@goAMP.com](mailto:nbcr-info@goAMP.com)

**REVISION TO ABTRACTOR’S MANUAL**

Please make sure the following terms have been added to your Abstractor’s Manual, pages 8-9:

***Using Ambiguous Terminology to Determine Reportability***

***Consider as diagnostic of cancer***

apparent(ly)  
appears to  
comparable with  
compatible with  
consistent with  
favor(s)  
malignant appearing  
most likely  
presumed  
probable  
suspect(ed)  
suspicious (for)  
typical of

***NOT considered diagnostic of cancer\****

cannot be ruled out  
equivocal  
possible  
potentially malignant  
questionable  
rule out  
suggests  
worrisome

\*without additional information

Do not include patients who have a diagnosis consisting only of these terms.

**SEER CODING CORNER**

SINQ (SEER Inquiry System) public browsing on the web revealed the following questions and answers. It is our hope that these examples will serve registrars across the state as another form of continuing education.

Question 1: What summary stage would be coded for a DCIS breast tumor with one positive lymph node?

*Answer: Summary stage would be regional, regional nodes, and histology would be coded 8500/3.*

Question 2: For a colon primary (specific site not given), are involved “mesocolic lymph nodes” coded as “colic NOS” or “mesenteric NOS”?

*Answer: Code them as mesenteric lymph nodes.*

Question 3: CT shows a mass in head of pancreas, encompassing hepatic branch of celiac artery. How is extension coded?

Discussion: We do not code the term “encompasses” as involvement, but should we code as extension to peripancreatic tissue NOS or as unknown?

*Answer: Code extension as 40, Extension to peripancreatic tissue, NOS. There has to be extension to peripancreatic tissue if the mass encompasses the celiac artery.*

Question 4: If tumor size is stated as “at least 2cm”, what code do we use? This seems to be different from >2cm, which could be anything. Stating “at least” seems to indicate that if the tumor is larger than 2cm, it is difficult to ascertain for whatever reason. So should we accept 2cm as the best info we have, or default to 999 because of the lack of specificity?

*Answer: Code the size as 020 (2cm), using the rule “code what you know”.*

Question 5: Prostatic adenocarcinoma, cribriform type. What histologic code?

*Answer: The term “type” indicates the majority of the tumor, so the histology would be coded to cribriform carcinoma, 8201/3. (Reference: SEER Program Code Manual; pg 96.)*